

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

June 20, 2005

The Board of County Commissioners for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, June 20, 2005; at 10:00 a.m. **COMMISSIONERS DENNIS HADALLER, ERIC JOHNSON** and **RICHARD GRAHAM** were in attendance. The meeting was called to order by **CHAIRMAN HADALLER** who determined a quorum and proceeded with the flag salute. **COMMISSIONER JOHNSON** moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on Monday, June 13, 2005. **COMMISSIONER GRAHAM** seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one signed up to speak.

NOTICE:

COMMISSIONER GRAHAM moved to approve Notice agenda items 1 and 2. **COMMISSIONER JOHNSON** seconded the motion. Karisa Duffey, Clerk of the Board, read the items aloud.

1. **NOTICE:** Regarding a temporary closure of Stowell Road beginning at 7:00 a.m. on July 5, 2005 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2005. **Resolution #05-169**
2. **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:** For Construction Management Software. Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 8, 2005. **Resolution #05-170**

Motion carried 3-0.

CONSENT:

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON moved to approve Consent agenda items 3 through 10. **COMMISSIONER GRAHAM** seconded the motion. Karisa Duffey, Clerk of the Board, read the items aloud.

3. **Resolution #05-171 Approving a Local Agency Agreement and a Federal Aid Prospectus between Lewis County and the Washington State Department of Transportation for the Rush Road Extension Project.**
4. **Resolution #05-172 Approving a contract between Lewis County and the State of Washington, Office of the Secretary of State, for the preservation of historic records in an amount not to exceed \$135,000.00.**
5. **Resolution #05-173 Approving the 2005 Domestic Highway Interdiction Program Support Agreement between Lewis County and Washington State Patrol in the amount of \$7,500.00.**
6. **Resolution #05-174 Approving a grant agreement between Lewis County and the Washington State Military Department for a FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$45,393.00.**

Larry Keeton asked to verify the amount of the grant agreement.

7. **Resolution #05-175 Approving a Personal Protective Equipment Policy, which includes the Hearing Conservation Program.**
8. **Resolution #05-176 Approving an agreement between Lewis County and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.**
9. **Resolution #05-177 Appointing Laura Moon as a full-time member of the Lewis County Board of Equalization. Term shall expire on June 30, 2006.**
10. **Resolution #05-178 Approving the prioritization of projects from Lewis County to the Washington Economic Revitalization Team (WACERT).**

Chairman Hadaller asked for questions. There were none. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Hadaller recessed the meeting until 6:00 p.m. this evening in Mossyrock.

HEARING:

6:00 p.m.

HEARING: Regarding the Grays-Elochoman & Cowlitz Watershed Plan

Chairman Hadaller called the meeting back to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Mossyrock Community Center. He announced the hearing and asked for a staff report.

Phil Trask of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, noted the Planning Unit met for about four years to formulate a watershed plan. He noted Lewis County was a member of that 36 member Planning Unit. He stated the Planning Unit reviewed available data and then gathered missing information to develop a watershed plan. He stated they then wrote a plan utilizing the expertise of planning unit members and outside consultants. He explained the unit ultimately approved a watershed plan. He noted the pertinent areas of Lewis County covered in the plan. He stated on September 9, 2004 the Planning Unit approved a plan. He stated they attempted to balance water supply with instream flow. He described the various water types available and mentioned in the plan. He acknowledged the counties of Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Lewis and Skamania would now have to adopt the plan in a joint session. He noted both Skamania and Wahkiakum have held public hearings to obtain testimony. He stated Cowlitz County would be holding a session in early July and then a joint hearing could be coordinated.

Kernen Lien, Lewis County Planner, noted he had drafted some language changes to the Cowlitz Watershed Plan at the direction of the Board of County Commissioners. He stated the language states that water rights reservations must be used in the subbasin for which the reservation was made. He suggested increasing the water rights reservation in the Lower and Upper Cowlitz River subbasin as it appears there is water available and now is the time to make the reservations. He also stated that the County would like control over who taps into reservations since the County is operating under the Growth Management Act and must ensure that development is consistent with the Act and the County's Comprehensive Plan. He also noted that he had drafted language allowing an emergency opening for review of the water rights reservation.

Chairman Hadaller asked about the Upper Cowlitz watershed. He noted that the County wanted to be able to move downstream rights upstream.

Mr. Lien stated that language to move rights downstream had not been written. There was language regarding the reserves in the Upper Cowlitz. He noted that rights tapped in the Upper Cowlitz must be used in the Upper Cowlitz.

Commissioner Graham noted that Lewis County is the only county of the watershed plan under the Growth Management Act. He asked Phil Trask for his perspective on the proposed changes.

Commissioner Johnson noted that those counties still had some land use planning responsibilities even though they may not be as intense.

Mr. Trask stated he mentioned some ideas presented by Lewis County to various Planning Unit members. He noted the Department of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife would probably be concerned with how well the watershed plan supports the Growth Management Act. He stated keeping the water in basin is a good point. He stated the County's screening process over the water rights has mixed feelings.

Commissioner Graham asked where the Water Conservancy Boards fit into the plan? He asked if one County didn't buy into the plan, would it go back to the Planning Unit again.

Mr. Trask clarified that if the counties couldn't agree on a plan, then it would go back to the Planning Unit for review. He stated business would then go back to usual and Ecology would be issuing water rights. He explained the current water right process and how cumbersome that could be. He stated each County was in agreement that the proposed plan is better than business as usual.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the amendments have to be approved by the Planning Unit before the four County's approve the watershed plan.

Mr. Trask stated the Planning Unit would adopt the plan. He stated then the counties would come together at a joint session. He explained the counties would remand those amendments back to the Planning Unit and the Unit then comes back to the counties in another joint session. He stated he would work with staff on the process. He stated a joint session with four counties would be difficult to coordinate.

Commissioner Graham asked if the late July timeline had been changed.

Mr. Trask stated it was slipping. He noted that it could be late July and possibly early August before a watershed plan was adopted.

Chairman Hadaller asked about the water rights in the Upper Cowlitz River Basin.

Mr. Lien clarified Chairman Hadaller's concern.

Mr. Trask stated that to get to a reserve there would still have to be mitigation. He briefly discussed a couple of different examples. He stated he did not believe there were any water rights to be had in the Upper Cowlitz. He stated people could ask for habitat mitigation in lieu of water rights.

Chairman Hadaller stated he wanted to be sure that there was water available in case an industry could utilize the mill site in Packwood.

Mr. Trask stated an analysis was done of that area and there are some water rights available.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Board is concerned with fire flow. He asked how the National Park Service and the Forest Service come into play when developing the watershed plan.

Mr. Trask stated that the Forest Service was very involved and reviewed the materials and provided comments even though they did not attend meetings. He stated the Parks Service was not involved.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the watershed plan has to be linked to land use planning. He stated it is an integral part of land use planning.

Mr. Trask stated that Fish and Wildlife felt very strongly about that as well. He noted that the meeting with Fish and Wildlife would happen upon Commissioner Hadaller’s return.

Chairman Hadaller noted his concern that Department of Ecology would put meters on exempt wells.

Mr. Trask noted there is language in the plan that discusses that issue already.

Chairman Hadaller asked for questions. There were none.

Craig Swanson, Lewis County Planner, stated the water right reservation plan addresses exempt wells. He noted he could clarify the issue of metering.

Commissioner Johnson noted that because it has been documented that enough water is available for exempt wells, metering would not be necessary.

Chairman Hadaller closed the question and answer portion of the hearing. He asked for testimony.

Phil Trask of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board stated the Planning Unit was formed and worked for four years to develop a watershed plan. He stated the Planning Unit adopted the watershed plan on September 9, 2004. He stated it was then passed on to the involved counties, which include Lewis, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum and Skamania. He stated the plan attempts to strike a balance between water use for people and water for fish and wildlife. He stated after adjournment, three of the four counties would have held their hearings. He noted the final County would hold a hearing in July. He noted a joint meeting would take place in the first part of August.

Chairman Hadaller asked for other testimony. There was none.

There being no further business, the Commissioners’ public meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. on Monday, June 20, 2005. The next public meeting will be held on Monday, June 27, 2005.

Please note that minutes from the Board of County Commissioners’ meetings are not verbatim. A tape of the meeting may be purchased at the Commissioners’ office.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY WASHINGTON**

ATTEST:

Dennis Hadaller, Chairman of the Board

Karisa Duffey, Clerk of the Board
Lewis County Commissioners

Richard Graham, Commissioner

Eric Johnson, Commissioner